

Call To Worship: O sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord all the earth. For great is the Lord,
and greatly to be praised. Honor and majesty are
before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

Call to Confession: We cannot truly praise God unless
we come to him in humble confession. Let us therefore
confess our weaknesses and shortcomings before him.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Pardon: This is the message we have
heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light
and in him is no darkness at all. If we walk in the
light as he is in the light, we have fellowship with
one another and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses
us from all sin. Amen.

TELEPHONE REASSURANCE PROGRAM

YOUTH SUNDAY

NOV 14TH ADVENT WREATH FELLOWSHIP

NOV 21 (CHRIST) ADVENT WREATH SUNDAY

5TH SYND REPINT ON BOARD

Also Book of Conf. for Consistory

TRINITY CHARGE--THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Ralph C. Link, Pastor
Christ Church, Duncannon 9:00 A.M.
Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 10:30 A.M.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP October 24, 1971

the Organ Prelude
*The Hymn of Praise 134
*The Call to Worship
*The Prayer of Confession (Unison)
We bring unto thee, O God, in ourselves
the world of which we are a part. We con-
fess that in the world we have lost thy way.
Now we have come into thy house to find our
way back to the road. Lead us into the
paths of righteousness and into the ways of
truth, and may we come to know him who is
the way, the truth, and the life. Deliver
us, O Almighty God, when we draw nigh to
thee, from coldness of heart and wanderings
of mind; that with steadfast thought and
kindled desire we may worship thee in spirit
and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.
*The Kyrie
*The Assurance of Pardon
The Scripture----I John 4:1-6
*The Gloria Patri
Anthem (Trinity)
Pastoral Prayer
Announcements
The Receiving of Tithes and Offerings
*The Doxology
*The Offering Prayer and Lord's Prayer
The Hymn of Meditation 211
The Sermon----"False Religion"
The Sermon Prayer
*The Hymn of Response 226
*The Benediction
*The Threefold Amen
*The Postlude

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Youth Sunday will be observed next Sunday.
The youth will lead us in worship.

Nov. 7th worship service will change in both
churches. Trinity will be 9:00 A.M. and
Christ will be 10:30 A.M.

CHRIST CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Duncannon Council of Churches will sponsor
the UNICEF Halloween Campaign. All children
from all churches will meet at the United
Church of Christ, Oct. 27th at 6:30 P.M.

Those in the hospital:
Mrs. F. Haas, Harrisburg Hosp. Room 1004
Mrs. L. Achenbach, Polyclinic Hosp. Room 149

TRINITY CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trick or Treat for Pakistan Relief in New
Bloomfield by the Junior Hi & Senior Hi youth
will meet at Trinity United Methodist Church
at 7:00 P.M. on Wed. Oct. 27th.

Mrs. Verna Magee is in Room 436 at Hershey
Medical Center.

False Religion

I JOHN

Text: I John 4: 6a, "But we belong to God, and a man who knows God listens to us." New English Bible.

To have a good offense you must have a good defense. This famous quotation is well known in Sports, and although it is usually applied only in sports, it is not out of the question to use it in a religious sense as well. The subject of the church in our present day world is one that evokes quite a controversy whenever and wherever it is mentioned. Many who are outside of the church ~~are so by the very simple task~~ ^{ARE IN THE PROCESS} of attacking it. This is where we must go on the defensive to ward off the offense as it were in the form of attack on the Church. In order to adequately defend against the onslaught of those who do not believe we need to point out just what it is we believe. The church as we know it has never been so bitterly attacked or torn apart as it has in the past few years. Its most ardent critics are those who want all of its members to prove they are really Christians by their actions as well as by their words. To this all of us could add a hearty amen, because this is as it should be.

But some of the attacks leveled at the church are not quite realistic in their thinking or reasoning. Some of these attacks have been sponsored and led by clergymen. We have been told for instance that ~~we need~~ ~~and~~ what the church needs is to get back to the old time values and customs. I can agree with the first part that we need to get back to the old values, and by this we mean, honesty, discipline, loving our neighbor and so on. However I disagree that we need the old customs, since most of the so called old customs were merely forms of prohibitions. Any religion built strictly on prohibitions is no religion at all. But perhaps we need to explain this a little further.

I think most of us can remember back to the times when it was fashionable to ~~remember~~ remember the Sabbath as it was known. Now you were not permitted to do anything on Sunday. The day was kept by sitting around doing absolutely nothing because if you did anything you were guilty of breaking the Sabbath. The papers were not read, the children were not permitted to play games or any such nonsense. If it was nice weather and they were permitted outside they had to sit on the porch all day. This was a common thing ~~in the~~ ^{AT ONE TIME} early ~~part of the century~~ in our country and many parts of the world. But a religion that is based ~~on~~ ^{STRICTLY UPON}

a series of "Thou shalt nots", is a false religion. The basis for this type of religion was the fact that when you became a Christian you became a changed person. This is true but not in the respect and extremes that have come about in the name of Christianity. The thinking went along these lines: ^{SINCE YOU ARE A CHRISTIAN} From now on you will no longer go to the movies; from now on you will not be permitted to go to dances or to dance; from now on you cannot smoke or wear make; ^{UP} from now on you can no longer read novels or the Sunday newspaper and so on. But you see this isn't religion ^{FOR} it makes a joke of religion. ~~Because~~ I happen to know of children who were raised this way and they were more irreligious than those who were raised more permissively. I also know from talking to many other people that this was the case throughout the different parts of our state, and probably throughout the country and the world as well. If a man could become a Christian by simply abstaining from doing things, Christianity would be a much easier religion than what it is. But the entire essence of Christianity is that it does not consist in not doing things, but it consists in doing things. It means getting involved with her people and being a part of the world as well. ^{CHRISTIANITY IS DIFFERENT FROM OTHER RELIGIONS BECAUSE IT IS A RELIGION OF ACTION.}

What we heard as our Scripture this morning points out the fact that there are many spirits in the world, but you cannot trust all of them. John goes on to say that these are false prophets. We have many false prophets today. We have prophets trying to lure our young people into escaping from life through either using some form of hallucination producing drugs or by turning from their parents and friends and rejecting society. I think we all know some of the drivel that is constantly being spouted by some self styled modern prophets. We need not go into detail about all the silly causes that have arisen in the past few years. ~~I thought that I had heard all of them but this past week on the David Susskind program a new one arose. Perhaps if any of you saw the program you know to what I refer. It is a cause led by some women who want to throw off the image that womanhood has had down through the years.~~ ^{THEY DON'T WANT TO BE CONSIDERED DOMINATED BY THE MALE} They want to be executives and congresswomen and representatives. They do not want to be just housewives. In fact they are suggesting that the men and women of the country should equally work part time, and the time they are not working they could share the household duties and caring

for the children. Personally I think they just want an excuse to escape their duties. Women should thank God they have been created women and are given the ability and the talent to be the wonderful wives and homemakers ^{MOST OF THEM} they are. But you see this is what is popular today. It's the great escape. ^{ONE OF OUR HUSBANDS HAS GREAT ESCAPE CRIES} Who wouldn't at one time or another want to throw off what he is doing and do something more exciting? We all have ^{HAD} this urge ~~at one time or another~~. But look at what trying to escape from the world has done for some groups. When we think along these lines our minds turn to the Roman Catholic monasterys and convents. What have most of these done? Mostly they have kept a certain segment away from society. It takes more courage and spunk to be out in society working at our Christianity than it does to run and hide in a stone building stuck away from everything and everyone. ^{OR} Then look at the Amish people. One can't help but admire their courage to continue to live as they do. But honestly, what can we point to, to prove that what they have done and how they have chosen to live has accomplished anything? We cannot escape from life or from reality. Yet this is what the false prophets of today are advocating. Get away from it all. If it doesn't suit you then break away from it. Fortunately those who heed this advice are in the minority. It takes real dedicated people to try to solve the problems of the world and our society without wanting to run and hide. Sometimes it seems that too often these people are in the minority too. But we really don't ~~often~~ hear from all those who are systematically going about their life living and trying to help others.

~~Then~~ Religion is a false religion if the false prophets promise an easy way. An easy life. Christianity can never be easy. It is not a complete hardship, but it is not easy. Christianity is not merely going to Church once a week and putting it away until next week. It is ~~a~~ living and doing as the Master would have us to do the other days of the week. It is not an accepting of Christ and ~~a~~ forgetting that we promise ~~to~~ follow in His footsteps. It means becoming involved. It means going out into the world to be of help and assistance. The world is not just in this building. It is out there on that street and in the next town and up the road, and anywhere that we encounter people. The world is the people we work with who perhaps need help and are just hoping that we will give them some encouragement in their lives. This is what Christianity is all

about. This is what we should be doing. Not just talking, and talking, and talking. But doing and being and loving. A lovely poem entitled, "Your Mission", by Ellen [redacted] expresses these thoughts very appropriately. (Poem from Scotts, Treasured Volume) . . . Close with this. Let us pray.

WE CANOS FIRST
~~CHURCH SCHOOLS~~ DEAD

PERRY COUNTY COUNCIL OF CHURCHES DEAD

CHURCH SCHOOLS DEAD

ENGLAND WHERE STARTED CLOSED DOWN

CHILDREN STILL HAVE NEED.

MUST HAVE ADULTS INTERESTED & WILLING.

ILLUSTRATION OF 2 CLERGY & PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR

POEM CLOSING.